

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 03746 211233Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----211236Z 042946 /20

O 211155Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3143
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3746

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UG, UN, CG
SUBJ: US RELATIONS WITH UGANDA

REF: (A) STATE 85808; (B) USUN 1083; (C) KINSHASA 3442

1. REF A AUTHORIZES ME TO CONVEY ORALLY TO MOBUTU A MESSAGE FOR AMIN, THE GIST OF WHICH IS THAT AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE FOR DISCUSSION OF US-UGANDAN RELATIONS WOULD BE CREATED IF AMIN WOULD ALLOW A UN INVESTIGATION OF ARCHBISHOP LUWUM'S DEATH AND SUCH INVESTIGATION YEIDLED "POSITIVE" RESULTS.

2. I HAVE NOT YET PASSED THIS MESSAGE TO MOBUTU FOR SEVERAL REASONS: FIRST, THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SHABA INVASION AND I HAVE NOT HAD A PRIVATE SESSION WITH HIM SINCE RECEIPT OF REF A. ALSO, MOBUTU IS OBVIOUSLY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE TO CONVEY TO ADMIN, WHEREAS THE MESSAGE SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IS BASICALLY NEGATIVE; GIVEN MOBUTU'S UNHAPPINESS WITH OUR LEVEL OF RESPONSE TO SHABA, CONVEYING THIS MESSAGE NOW WOULD HARDLY IMPROVE HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD US. FINALLY, I AM FRANKLY CONCERNED THAT, IN HIS EAGERNESS TO PLEASE AMIN, MOBUTU MIGHT EXAGGERATE OR OTHERWISE DISTORT OUR MESSAGE TO THE POINT THAT AMIN WOULD EXPECT MORE
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OF AN INITIATIVE ON OUR PART TOWARD NORMALIZATION THAN WE ARE WILL-
ING TO TAKE.

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT AMIN
MAY VISIT KINSHASA TOMORROW, APRIL 22. IF SO, MOBUTU MAY BE
LOOKING--AND PERHAPS MAY EVEN ASK -- FOR SOMETHING FROM US TO
PASS TO AMIN. BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION ON THIS MATTER, I WOULD

LIKE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE, AND AN UPDATED READING ON FARAH'S DISCUSSION WITH AMIN, SCHEDULED FOR LAST WEEK.

4. ONE POSSIBLE WAY OF HANDLING THIS MATTER SO AS TO AVOID DISPLEASING MOBUTU AND RISKING HIS MISLEADING AMIN WOULD BE SIMPLY TO INFORM MOBUTU THAT I WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH AMIN DURING HIS VISIT HERE. DURING SUCH A MEETING I COULD MYSELF MAKE THE POINTS CONTAINED REF A AND ANY OTHER MESSAGE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO PASS. I REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION MIGHT RISK LEADING AMIN TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE READY TO MOVE FASTER TOWARD NORMALIZATION THAN WE ARE AND CREATING A SITUATION WHICH, HOWEVER DISCREETLY THE MEETING MIGHT BE HELD, HE COULD EXPLOIT PUBLICLY FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. (AMIN MIGHT REFRAIN FROM SUCH EXPLOITATION, HOWEVER, IF WE WERE TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIM THAT THIS WOULD OBLIGE US TO STATE PUBLICLY OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IN HOLDING MEETING.)

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE REACTION AND GUIDANCE, AS THIS MATTER MAY ARISE VERY SHORTLY.
CUTLER

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